

DSHS honors the best in EMS and trauma

The EMS organizations and people listed below took top honors at this year's EMS conference. The awards were announced at a luncheon that included a moving tribute by the Lubbock Honor Guard to those fallen in the line of duty. Nominations for the Texas EMS Awards come from the public, EMS providers and individuals in the community.

Congratulations to all those who were honored this year!

EMS Public Information/Injury Prevention Award – Angleton Area Emergency Medical Corps, for outstanding achievement in public education and/or injury prevention in Angleton and the surrounding area. Members of AAEMC participate in several educational programs throughout the community, including education about injury prevention, summer safety, seat belt safety and stranger danger. AAEMC has worked with Allstate Insurance and Angleton Fire Department to teach community members about the dangers of reckless driving and driving under the influence of alcohol, by using displaying a wrecked vehicle and using Fatal Vision Goggles, which simulate being “under the influence.” AAEMC also uses Andy the Ambulance, a small robotic ambulance that is remotely controlled and can interact with the public via a voice modulator, to educate people about being safe. AAEMC provides CPR and first aid training to local businesses, organizations and the public, and trains local law enforcement personnel in AED usage, CPR and first aid. They recently partnered with the local division of the Texas Department of Transportation and the Texas New Mexico Power Company to implement employee heat safety programs, including lectures, brochures and flyers about keeping safe in the extreme Texas summer heat. AAEMC also has been very involved with the local Boy Scouts troops, and provided lead instruction for the Webelos Ready-Man Badge project during a weeklong day camp. AAEMC's high visibility within its community reminds everyone to be safe, while reassuring that someone will be there to help in the event of an emergency.

EMS Educator Award – Jay Cloud, Deer Park Fire Department, San Jacinto College Central EMT Department, for leadership and commitment to EMS education in Texas. Cloud has been in teaching EMS for more than 20 years and has taught more than 50 classes of paramedics, totaling more than 1,000 students in his years of providing EMS education. He has taught EMS classes, and several specialty classes such as first aid, CPR, ACLS, PALS, BTLs, EMS operations, extrication and rescue techniques. Mr. Cloud also provides medical training to NASA astronauts in preparation for space travel. Mr. Cloud goes beyond his role as instructor by helping his students find financial assistance for their studies. Many of his students have gone on to become physicians, flight medics, nurses and other key personnel in the Texas EMS community.

EMS Telecommunicator of the Year – Jessica Barnett, Austin-Travis County EMS, for handling 9-1-1 calls with professionalism and efficiency and assisting the bystanders on scene to give the patients the best care possible. In April 2004, Barnett received a 9-1-1

call from a person in Travis County who had found a neighbor collapsed and in cardiac arrest in the street. While only one person had called 9-1-1, several neighbors were present at the scene, so she initiated pre-arrival instructions for cardiac arrest with the caller and continued to monitor the progression of CPR after a nurse arrived on scene. Even though the phone changed hands several times during the call, she continually refocused and redirected the bystanders at the scene to ensure that appropriate patient care was being administered prior to the arrival of first responders and EMS. She displayed exceptional scene management skills by involving each bystander in the scene, by directing the caller to send someone to flag responding emergency response units, reminding the bystanders to keep their own safety in mind and continually clarifying the location of the scene – all while she provided scene updates for the emergency responders. She kept the scene under control and assisted bystanders in giving the best patient care possible during the seven minutes it took for emergency responders to arrive on scene. The patient recovered and threw a block party to recognize all of her rescuers, including neighbors, first responders, paramedics and Barnett.

EMS Medical Director Award – Robert Parkey, MD, LP, Henrietta, for his dedication and service to EMS as medical director for several emergency responders in Wichita Falls and the Clay County area. As medical director for the Clay County Memorial Hospital EMS and director of emergency services, Dr. Parkey facilitated the development of regional progressive protocols and a strong quality control program. Currently eight of the 13 volunteer fire departments have become active first responder programs, even though none were first responders in Clay County prior to his involvement with the local EMS. He also serves as Medical Executive Officer for the North Texas Regional Advisory Council and as medical director for NORTEX Regional Providers Association and Vernon College EMS Program. He is medical director for Bluegrove, Byres, Charlie/Thornberry, Dean Dale, Lake Arrowhead, Jolly, Henrietta and St Jo Volunteer Fire Departments, TransStar Ambulance in Wichita Falls and Hardeman County EMS, and teaches continuing education and EMS classes in these areas. He serves as team physician for Henrietta High School and is on courtesy staff at Clay County Memorial Hospital in Henrietta and United Regional Health System in Wichita Falls. He is also a licensed paramedic and holds certification in ACLS, ATLS, PALS and neonatal resuscitation.

EMS Administrator Award – Marian Lucille Maes, LP, Angleton Area Emergency Medical Corps, for leadership in quality prehospital patient care and community emergency response. She is a member of the Southwest Texas EMS Directors Organization and the chair of RAC R, becoming one of the first EMS directors to chair a RAC. As RAC chair, she has assisted regional EMS providers with operations, administration, DSHS rules and RAC information and has assisted some smaller hospital with bioterrorism planning and drills. She worked diligently with staff at Angleton Danbury Medical Center as that facility worked to reach Level IV trauma designation. She also assisted in the regional planning for bioterrorism funding formulas for the 26 hospitals in RAC R. She is an advisory board member for San Jacinto College and Brazosport Community College, and an ambassador for the Angleton Chamber of Commerce. She is currently the Brazoria County ESD #3 EMS Committee chair and on

the planning committee for the hospital's emergency department expansion. During the 2003 Texas Legislative session, she worked with state legislators to craft the Move Over Act, a law protecting all emergency response personnel by requiring drivers to slow down below posted speeds when emergency vehicles are working on the roadway. She has been instrumental in getting AAEMC and Angleton Fire Department to train and respond together as sister agencies, despite different funding sources, and as a Chamber of Commerce committee member, she has worked to raise funds for thermal imaging cameras for AFD. She has also worked with Memorial Hermann LifeFlight to establish a trauma information resource panel (TRIP) to assist prehospital providers with the post-incident patient information needed to properly review the call. She worked with a local accounting firm to establish its own insurance billing company, so that others in the surrounding areas could afford to use the company's services. And she still works on the box.

Outstanding RAC Award –*Lower Rio Grande Valley Trauma Regional Advisory Council, Trauma Service Area V*, for continuing excellence in regional trauma system development. A strong performer in the Texas Trauma System, RAC V has directly approached some tough issues, such as working with the state to review and provide recommendations regarding underdesignation in its region. RAC-V has also made several accomplishments in the area of injury prevention by producing public service announcements with an injury prevention theme and distributing these videos to the other RACs. RAC-V also sponsors an annual trauma symposium for hospitals and prehospital personnel for networking and educational purposes. And to ensure that trauma care is met for the Rio Grande Valley area, members of the Quality Assurance committee attend Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council meetings, public health policy forums, and other community events to ensure input from the community. RAC-V also has representation at all the state-sponsored meetings to ensure that the needs of the Lower Rio Grande Valley communities are being met.

EMS Air Medical Service Award – *Memorial Hermann LifeFlight, Houston*, for showing leadership and the highest standards in providing air medical services to the citizens in Texas. A pioneer in air medical service, LifeFlight was established in 1976 and has flown more than 50,000 missions. The service travels within a 150-mile radius to treat and transport critically ill and injured patients and is a key responder for 13 counties in the Houston-Galveston area. The personnel are known for their knowledge, expertise and courtesy on scene. The personnel of LifeFlight actively interact with area emergency services in providing education and training, teaching many EMS and medical specialty courses at 12 system hospitals and 32 affiliate hospitals. LifeFlight regularly offers its training courses at an affordable price to local EMS personnel. The service also actively participates in several medical studies, such as the use of Poly-Heme, a blood substitute; the use of helicopter transport of acute coronary syndrome patients from facilities that lack cardiac catheterization capabilities; field administration of thrombolytics; and hypothermia (roadside cooling) for head trauma patients. NASA also sends the astronauts training to be assigned as crew medical officer on the International Space Station through a rotation with LifeFlight, learning advanced life support procedures, as part of San Jacinto College's Space Medicine Training.

EMS Volunteer Provider Award – *Jersey Village Emergency Services*, for assuming a leadership role in EMS in areas of patient care, public access, medical control, disaster preparedness, public education and training. JVES maintains visibility within its community by hosting immunization clinics and blood pressure checkups for local citizens, offering free child car seat inspections, teaching students of all ages about injury prevention, teaching city employees about bloodborne pathogens, and providing station tours. The service has a Z Squad for junior members that allows the youths to become trained in CPR and involved in EMS, such as attending meetings and training sessions. JVES also developed a Citizens Fire Academy that includes first aid training, CPR training and citizen emergency response team (CERT) training, and offers disaster preparedness and planning classes to any group that requests training, such as day care centers, the Rotary Club and the general public. JVES worked closely with the Greater Harris County 9-1-1 Network to develop the Network Emergency Warning System (NEWS) and was a test city for the NEWS. This association resulted directly from several flooding incidents in Jersey Village, including flooding during Tropical Storm Allison. The service works with the Cy-Fair Volunteer Fire/EMS departments and local law enforcement departments to quickly respond to all 9-1-1 calls and has trained all dispatchers to provide pre-arrival instructions to 9-1-1 callers using the Medical Card System. JVES has also worked closely with Jersey Village Police Department to purchase AEDs and train several officers in the use of AEDs.

First Responder Award – *Wichita Falls Fire Department*, for assuming a leadership role in EMS in the areas of patient care, public access, medical control, disaster preparedness, public education and training. WFD has 150 firefighters, all certified as EMTs, serving a 72-square-mile area with a population of approximately 110,000. The service has eight stations and an average response time of three and a half minutes within the city limits. WFD has two members on the executive board of the North Texas Regional Advisory Council and participates in the North Texas Injury Prevention Coalition and the Wichita County Child Fatality review team. They recently became part of the 11-county North Texas Regional Response Team and are working with Vernon College to build a regional fire training school that will offer fire- and medical-related classes. They have a fire safety program that they present to all the elementary schools.

EMS Private/Public Provider Award – *Galveston EMS*, for assuming a leadership role in EMS in the areas of patient care, public access, medical control, disaster preparedness, public education and training. Galveston EMS has used cutting edge technologies to help its patients recover as fully as possible from their emergencies. One of these technologies include the of continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) on congestive heart failure patients, which has decreased the intubation rate of these patients by 90 percent and greatly decreased their length of hospital stay and mortality rates. GEMS has also participated in many medical studies, and is currently partnered with the University of Texas Medical Branch in a stroke study and seeking to become involved in a Poly-Heme study and an automated CPR device study. GEMS is aggressively preparing for the possibility of either a natural or man-made disaster, by participating in and sponsoring conferences and drills in disaster management, acquiring specialized antidote kits,

training its staff to use Level C personal protection equipment and implementing a Tox Medic program. Due to the large influx of people during island events and summer tourism season, the provider has be prepared to increase staffing as needed and to use special teams, such as Bike Medics, for response. GEMS has a occupational injury prevention program that include pre-employment strength testing, aggressive bloodborne pathogen exposure protocols, footwear requirements geared toward safety and stair chairs that help reduce patient load – something that is very important when almost every call involves stairs. GEMS offers training to nursing, EMS and medical students and the area fire departments and law enforcement. They also provide training to NASA astronauts.

EMS Person of the Year – D. E. “Donn” Barnes, *Texas EMS Foundation*, for leadership and dedication in providing emergency medical service to the citizens of Texas and beyond Texas’ borders. As a member of the EMS Association of Texas, Barnes has been a tireless supporter of EMS in Texas. Through his work with the Texas EMS Foundation, a non-profit foundation, he succeeded in designing a Texas EMS license plate and getting the plate approved by the Texas Department of Transportation. He also helped TEMSF establish EMStock, an informal get-together for EMS people to share ideas and discuss the business of EMS, and scholarships for EMS students in Texas. He also provided immense support to the collaborative effort between the Texas EMS Conference and TEMSF to recruit speakers for the Texas EMS Conference, making sure that all speaker information was updated on the web site and giving input into the decisions of the education committee.